United Nations CRC/SP/SR.17

Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child

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Eleventh meeting

Summary record of the 17th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 21 February 2007, at 10 a.m.

Temporary Chairperson: Mr. Mbaidjol (Representative of the Secretary-General)
Chairperson: Mr. Badji ..... (Senegal)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

Opening of the meeting by the representative of the Secretary-General

1. **The Temporary Chairperson**, speaking on behalf of the Secretary-General, said that since the tenth meeting of the States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child the number of States parties to the Convention had grown to 193. There were currently 112 States parties to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the involvement of children in armed conflict and 117 States parties to the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

2. The Committee had been able to consider 47 reports in 2006 and thus reduce the backlog of reports pending consideration owing to its meeting in parallel chambers, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 59/261. The Chairman of the Committee would address the General Assembly at its sixty-second session, including on the possible need to reconsider meeting in parallel chambers should the number of reports submitted so require.

3. The Committee had also been active in developing new general comments, including on the treatment of unaccompanied and separated children outside their country of origin, implementing child rights in early childhood, the right of the child to protection from corporal punishment and other cruel or degrading forms of punishment, the rights of children with disabilities and children's rights in juvenile justice. There had been increased participation of civil society and children in the days of general discussion held by the Committee, including on the right of the child to be heard in September 2006. The forthcoming day of general discussion in September 2007 would be devoted to article 4 of the Convention.

4. Another important activity related to the work of the Committee was the completion of the United Nations study on violence against children (A/61/299). The Committee fully supported follow-up to the recommendations of the study and highlighted that the momentum created by the study process should be maintained.

Election of the Chairperson

5. **Mr. Al-Nasser** (Qatar), Vice-Chairperson, nominated **Mr. Badji** (Senegal) for the office of Chairperson of the meeting.

6. *Mr. Badji (Senegal) was elected Chairperson of the meeting by acclamation.*

Adoption of the agenda

7. *The agenda was adopted.*

8. **The Chairperson** drew attention to rules 2 and 3 of the rules of procedure, contained in document CRC/SP/5, and said that he had been informed that the Secretary-General had yet to receive proper credentials from a number of the States parties represented at the meeting. He urged those States Parties to submit the credentials of their representatives to the Secretary-General as soon as possible and suggested that, in accordance with rule 3, the representatives of those States parties should be entitled provisionally to participate in the meeting.

9. *It was so decided.*

Election of other officers of the meeting

10. *Ms. Lintonen (Finland), Ms. Hasteh (Islamic Republic of Iran), Mr. Gerus (Belarus) and Mr. Sevilla Somoza (Nicaragua) were elected Vice-Chairpersons.*

Election of nine members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child in accordance with article 43 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child as amended by General Assembly resolution 50/155 (CRC/SP/38 and Add.1 and 2)

11. **The Chairperson**, drawing particular attention to paragraphs 2, 3 and 5 of article 43 of the Convention, recalled that article 43 had been amended on 18 November 2002 to expand the Committee's membership from 10 to 18 members. In accordance with article 43, as amended, nine Committee members were to be elected for a term of four years by secret ballot from a list of persons nominated by States parties. That list was contained in document CRC/SP/38 and Add.1 and 2. The nominations of candidates from the United Republic of Tanzania and Benin had been withdrawn.

12. *At the invitation of the Chairperson, Ms. Artiga (El Salvador), Ms. Kaljuläte (Estonia), Mr. Dambajav (Mongolia) and Mr. Jølle (Norway) acted as tellers.*

13. **Ms. Charbel** (Lebanon) informed the meeting that the Lebanese candidate, Mr. Ghassan Salim Rabah, had withdrawn.

14. **Mr. Loizaga** (Paraguay) suggested that new ballot papers should be distributed to reflect the withdrawal of the Lebanese candidate.

15. **Mr. Cabral** (Guinea-Bissau) pointed out that the voting process had already begun, and recalled that, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, no representative was permitted to interrupt the voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting.

16. **Mr. Diarra** (Mali), supported by **Mr. Medrek** (Morocco), enquired whether ballot papers with names crossed out would be regarded as invalid.

17. **The Chairperson** said that, in view of the circumstances, the Secretariat would take a practical approach: ballot papers on which the name of the Lebanese candidate had been crossed out would be considered valid.

18. *A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

Number of ballot papers: 188
Number of valid ballots: 188
Number of members voting: 188
Required majority: 95
Number of votes obtained:

Mr. Lothar Friedrich Krappmann (Germany)	131
Mr. Hatem Kotrane (Tunisia)	120
Ms. Moushira Khattab (Egypt)	116
Mr. Luigi Citarella (Italy)	107
Mr. Dainius Pūras (Lithuania)	105
Mr. Kamel Filali (Algeria)	101
Ms. Rosa Maria Ortiz (Paraguay)	100
Ms. Maria Herczog (Hungary)	93
Ms. Lidija Topić (Bosnia and Herzegovina)	87
Ms. Marta Maurás Pérez (Chile)	80
Ms. Agnes Akosua Aidoo (Ghana)	73
Ms. Mary Clark (Jamaica)	71
Ms. Lourdes G. Balanon (Philippines)	67
Ms. Ojobo Atuluku (Nigeria)	59
Ms. Sylvie Kayitesi Zaïnabo (Rwanda)	56
Ms. Ruth Farrugia (Malta)	49
Ms. Harimisa Razafindrakoto (Madagascar)	44
Ms. Mirna Yolanda Lorenzana Arriaga de González (Guatemala)	42
Ms. Nakpa Polo (Togo)	41
Ms. Mariama Aribot (Guinea)	39
Ms. Esmeralda Elizabeth Arosemena de Troitiño (Panama)	39
Mr. Itumeleng Kimane (Lesotho)	35

19. *Having obtained the required majority, Mr. Luigi Citarella (Italy), Mr. Kamel Filali (Algeria), Ms. Moushira Khattab (Egypt), Mr. Hatem Kotrane (Tunisia), Mr. Lothar Friedrich Krappmann (Germany), Ms. Rosa Maria Ortiz (Paraguay) and Mr. Dainius Pūras (Lithuania) were elected members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.*

20. **The Chairperson** said that, since only seven candidates had obtained the required majority, a second ballot, restricted to the four candidates who had obtained the next largest number of votes, would be held to fill the remaining two vacancies on the Committee, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure. That ballot would be held at the Committee's eighteenth meeting.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.